

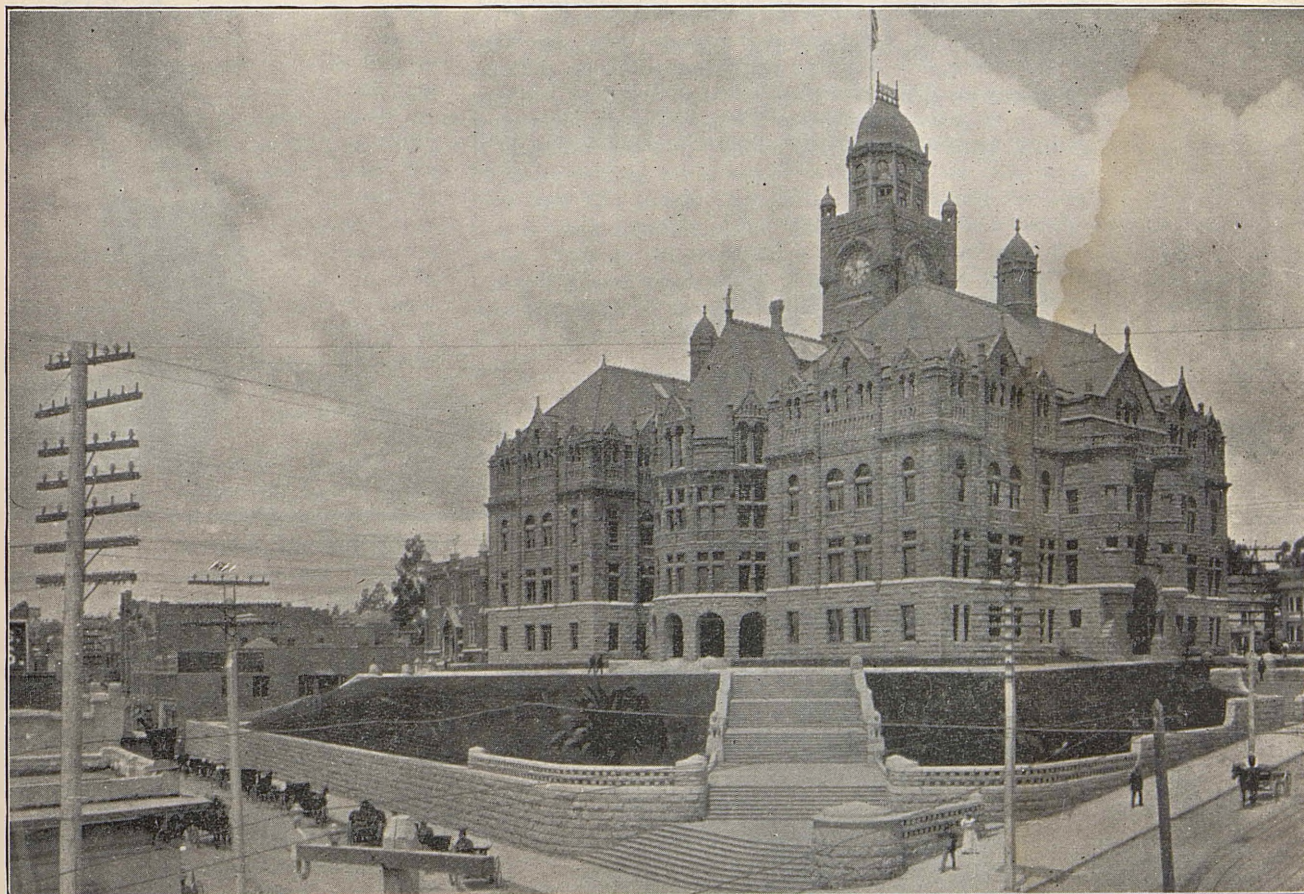
The Liberator

Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the Afro-American.

VOL. III.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., APRIL, 1902.

No. 10.



The Los Angeles County Court House

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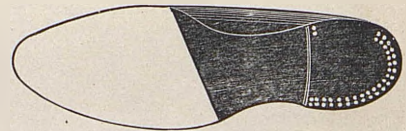
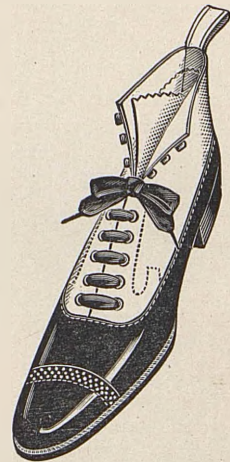


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Business Men's Association Elects Officers.

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Its Capital in Demand

Under its charter the Los Angeles Business Men's Association has elected its officers, and those requiring bonds have qualified and the business matters of the association are rapidly shaping themselves. The following list of officers is a guarantee of its good faith and gains for the organization the confidence of the public generally: President, Dr. Geo. D. Taylor; vice-president, Eugene Walker; treasurer, J. H. Jamison; business manager, R. C. Owens; secretary, James M. Vena; board of directors, C. W. Holden, J. L. Edmonds, R. C. Owens, H. Stricklin, Eugene Walker, Dr. Geo. D. Taylor, James M. Vena. Comment is unnecessary.

There is a healthy demand for shares of the company's capital stock, which is \$25,000, but owing to necessary routine business the amount of stock to be floated has not been decided upon. This will be decided at the next meeting of the board of directors. The dues received for stock sold amount to \$104 per month, and are paid promptly on the first of the month. The association will have no difficulty in selling one thousand shares of its capital stock, as the demand for it is not confined to this state. The earnings from sales will be invested in real estate, building and loan and other business that will serve as a means of giving employment to colored people so as to better their financial condition. Available lands will be purchased and colonies established and farming encouraged. The tide of colored emigration to this state is steadily increasing; many of the emigrants are persons of intelligence and means. The association will assist these people in securing proper locations and furnish them with such aid as they may need until they get on foot. The colored people of this city have \$100,000 deposited in banks or in building and loan associations for which they get no credit and gives the members of the race not a day's work.

A realization of this fact has made the association necessary in order that this state of affairs be changed by investing the earnings of the race in a way that will not only give them employment, but will raise their business standing in the community.

The fact that the association has the confidence of the entire community broadens its opportunities, makes its ultimate success easier, but increases its responsibilities. The association has a rare and magnificent opportunity to create new avenues in which the earnings of the race, which are now used to no purpose, may be turned with profit and credit to all concerned. It can increase the worth of the negro by turning his attention to business and the things that will raise him in the estimation of his fellow citizens. This is the ambition of those composing the association. The officers are equal to the task.

MR. EUGENE WALKER, vice-president of the association, is a tailor, well known in business circles. He is a business man who is indebted to none but himself for the success he is making. His tailoring establishment is a monument to his tact, push and untiring energy. He is a valuable member of the association, whose opinion in business and other matters is respected.

Two white women shot down in cold blood by white men, one of them on the street, one white man in Pasadena charged with incest, one from Pomona charged with rape, half dozen deadly assaults upon white women by white men in this city, fifteen or more suicides, all white, one policeman dismissed for stealing eggs, this and scores of other offenses are the record of the past 60 days. What a field of labor laying all out of doors for Madams Burdette, Chapin and Graves.



DR. GEO. D. TAYLOR.

The new president of the Los Angeles Business Men's Association is a practical, up-to-date young man. He is a successful physician, a man of broad, liberal views, progressive,

energetic, well known and popular for his integrity and personal worth. His selection was an exhibition of good judgment on the part of the association and strengthens it in the public confidence.



MR. JAMES M. VENA, who succeeds himself as secretary of the Business Men's Association, is one of "Uncle Sam's" clerks in the city postoffice.

His ability, integrity, worth and experience have made him a necessity to the organization. He is well known and highly respected in business, intellectual and social circles.



MR. C. W. HOLDEN. Like the other officers of the association, Mr. Holden, who is a member of the board of directors, was selected for his position because the position needed him. Among the officers few are better known and none are more highly respected. His success as a rancher is an example of what colored men can do who are willing to work.



R. C. OWENS.

MR. R. C. OWENS, business manager of the association, comes of a pioneer family, who are well and favorably known in business and real estate circles. He has ample means and is cautious in his investments; therefore his connection with the association has done much to inspire confidence in its reliability. Mr. Owen owns some of the finest property in the city. Besides his fine residence, corner of Tenth and Albany streets, he owns a block on Spring street, which is worth a fortune. He is pre-will engage in real estate and insurance business. Mr. Owens is a native of this city and is very popular.



MR. JOHN SAUNDERS.

Mr. Saunders who is a large stockholder in the Business Men's Association is a practical railroad man having been in the employ of the Santa Fe's General Manager's private car for many years. Two general managers have died, and he is now serving the third. This shows how well he has performed his duties. In saving his earnings he has done equally well and has considerable invested in business in this city. He is a working member of Rev. Edwards' church where he can be found at any service when in the city. The club or dive which is too often the undoing of railroad men has no attractions for him. He is a liberal supporter of the race enterprises, and can be depended upon to assist any cause for the advancement of the race.

MR. J. H. JAMISON, treasurer of the association, is a wholesale dealer in junk and does business throughout Southern California. He buys from local dealers in hundred ton lots, ship-

ping it to the wholesale dealers in San Francisco. His square dealings has built him a business that is worth several thousand dollars annually. His bond as treasurer was promptly made by the bond insurance company. Mr. Jamison on being elected treasurer offered to make a cash bond by making a deposit of two thousand dollars in the bank to be subject to the order of the association in case of default during his incumbency, but the association deemed this unfair to him and ordered the insurance on his bond paid out of the treasury. This incident showed not only his desire to make the association safe, but his financial standing as well. A gentleman who was making a deal with Mr. Jamison which involved a thousand or more dollars called upon the president of the bank where Jamison did business to inquire as to his standing in that institution and was informed that his check for two or three thousand dollars would be honored whether he had any money in their vaults or not. He owns valuable real estate in the city, including his neat cottage, 722 Mateo street.



REV. J. E. EDWARDS.

Rev. Edwards who was a delegate to the late Ecumenical Conference in London, England is now engaged in raising funds to build a new church. The congregation under his pastorate has outgrown his present place of worship, popularly known as the "Azusa Street Church." His whole church have entered into the spirit of the work and the movement is going forward with a will. Rev. Edwards was winner in the popular voting contest held some time since. He received 945 votes, Rev. Donohoo who was a close second received 737.

A red nose is a trial; to avoid it, or to cure it, do not use too much coffee and tea. Do not lazily let your feet stay cold for any length of time, when a hot foot bath, followed by a cold sousing would send the blood racing to these extremities. Keep your feet warm all the time, and go in for long, brisk walks. Also see what a half hour of relaxation every day will do for you; a half hour spent stretched out at full length in a well-aired room with a big, soft, warm covering over you.—Pilgrim.

The Liberator,

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J. L. EDMUNDS, Editor and Business Manager.

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GOVERNOR GAGE.

The fight among the Republicans for Governor Gage's place is waxing warm and according to The Times he is already defeated for re-nomination. While the fight against the Governor seems to be assuming ugly proportions, the convention has not yet assembled and the Governor still commands the works. Whether he can be beaten on the home run or not is giving his opponents considerable concern in spite of their sanguine claims. While we are not entitled to any credit for the Governor's administration it is stating a truth to say that his administration has been as good as any other Republican would have given the state. To us it seems only a case of wanting to swap jobs. As to that there are some real good capable Democrats in this state who would like to do the same thing and they will do it if they have half a chance. In every party there are some perhaps who would like to run the ad-

ministration, who, if turned down, discover that it needs changing. Let that be as it may, there is one thing that nobody will deny and that is this: He has given the colored voters of this state a more substantial recognition than any governor the state ever had. His appointment of Attorney Wickliffe to a position in the office of the harbor commissioners was a recognition of the negroes' intellectual qualifications, thereby placing those who supported the party on a level with its other supporters. This is right and just to all. There may be others who would do the same thing, but Governor Gage is the only one that has ever done it. Now, if the governor is to be turned down, we will do our best to help land another gentleman in his chair that we believe will do just as he has done, regardless of the party in which he is found.

A DEAD SHERIFF: Sheriff Gassaway of Tusculumbia, Alabama is dead. His death is the direct result of the perfidious practice of officers arresting negroes and turning them over unarmed to mobs which put them to death without a trial. If he had arrested Will Reynolds, Reynolds certainly would have been lynched, this he knew and resolved to sell his life as dear as possible. The sheriff who doubtlessly was leading the mob became first victim of Reynolds' deadly aim. According to The Examiner's report which is correct, Reynolds killed seven and wounded 21 of the mob beside killing 7 or 8 horses. His aim was deliberate and the execution simply terrible. While we regret the terrible loss of life in the battle there was nothing else for Reynolds to do, to surrender after the battle opened meant death at the stake, perhaps. The whole thing is deplorable but it is the legitimate result of mob law. As deplorable as this thing is no man ought allow himself to be turned over to a mob if he can prevent it by the deadly use of fire arms. The blood of Sheriff Gassaway is on every mob sympathizer in this country and all of those who has in any way aided in propagating mob sentiment. Things for which negroes have been lynched without trials have been so many and trivial that to be arrested is to be lynched. Now as juries do not regard lynching and burning at the stake as murder, the negro

charged with offense has but one alternative to escape being lynched and that is to arm himself and kill every body in sight until he is killed. It is a desperate remedy for a desperate disease. How long will lynch law be tolerated?

"The wages of sin is death."

Mr. Stafford, city engineer, appointed Mr. W. F. Henderson to the position in his department made vacant by the resignation of Mr. James M. Vena. The appointment gives general satisfaction to the colored voters with whom Mr. Stafford is very popular. There were several candidates for the place but the demand for Mr. Henderson's appointment was so general that the place was given to him.

REV. F. L. DONOHOO.

The election of Rev. Donohoo as delegates to the International Sunday School convention, which convenes at Denver, Colo., June 22nd, is a merited honor. The convention which elected him was composed of 365 delegates representing the Sunday Schools of all denominations in Southern California. The fact that there were only 14 colored delegates in the convention makes the election of Rev. Donohoo all the more significant. It was the simple recognition of the worth of an able, conscientious Christian gentleman. No minister in the city, all things considered, has done greater work in the cause of Christ and the general uplifting of society than Rev. Donohoo has done. His ability has been recognized signally in every convention in which he has sat as a delegate, and he has secured from the great M. E. church higher recognition for the colored people of this city than was ever accorded them before. It is indeed pleasing to note that he is loved and respected for his worth by the intelligent Christian colored people of all denominations. At Denver the colored Sunday Schools of Southern California will be ably represented and he will be amply provided for, so that he can fittingly represent this great section in that august body. It is a great honor bestowed upon us all.

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Only a Matter of Taste.

The Record is Free.

MRS. W. L. GRAVES HAS AN ORGAN.

Under the scare head of "MRS. W. L. GRAVES THREATENED BY NEGRO WOMEN," The Record of March 13th told a tale of woe, about anonymous letters that negro women had written to Mrs. Graves. If Mrs. Graves received the letters in question, is there any evidence that they were written by negro women? White people are now and then accused of writing anonymous letters. Only a short time ago a white woman, president of one of the women's clubs in Chicago, was accused of writing anonymous letters. If these letters were written by negroes, it is prima facie evidence that they were written by the base, ignorant element of the race.

If the educated, high-toned negroes wished to reply to Mrs. Graves' attack they would make use of the great dailies like the Times and Herald, so that the public could pass judgment on them. Mrs. James Vena's reply to Mrs. Graves, published in the columns of the Herald, gave the latter far more annoyance than all of the anonymous letters the negroes will ever write.

The Record says:

"Not only have cowardly anonymous letter writers attacked Mrs. Graves, but 'The Liberator,' a local weekly published by and for colored people, has contained some incendiary utterances calculated to stir up the blood of the blacks. Is it any wonder, then, that colored waiters and waitresses have of late been known to refuse to serve persons known to be opposed to accepting their race on a social equality?"

If denouncing those as enemies of the peace and good order of this country who are taking advantage of every opportunity to encourage lawlessness, murder, brutality; if pleading for the supremacy of the law, equal rights and equal opportunity for all regardless of color or previous condition is "incendiarism" "The Liberator" is incendiary to the core. The man who lends aid and comfort to the enemies of his country is himself an enemy of his country. We see mobs and the sympathizers of mobs in the samelight. The

brute who assaults a woman is as brutal as the mob that burns him at the stake. Because a brute commits a crime, society is not benefitted by a whole community turning to brutes. In this country there can be no justification of mob law. Mob law is anarchy and sooner or later those who justify it will be regarded and treated as anarchists. We shall wage an unrelenting warfare against mobs and their sympathizers, whether men or matter up, aside from their social lines, the American people are divided into two great divisions. One is composed of those who love and labor for the promotion of law, order and progress, who believe in granting every American equality before the law, equality of opportunity and the adoption everywhere of civilized methods. This class represents the virtue, intelligence and culture of the country, and is led by President Roosevelt and Booker T. Washington.

The other class is composed of those who oppose law, order and progress, anarchists who kill our presidents, those who make anarchists by encouraging lawlessness, nullifiers, ballot thieves, political murderers, mobbers, those who burn human beings at the stake in the presence of their wives and children, then sell the baked flesh of their victims for the money there is in it. Think of it. selling baked human flesh for money; this class is lead by Senator Tillman and his cohorts, made up of men and women who are going over the country from one woman's club to another stirring up strife between the races, justifying all that has been to impede the advancement of the negroes, encouraging race hate and sowing the seeds of revolution.

If The Record chooses to be the Los Angeles mouth-piece of the Tillman gang, it is only a matter of taste. The Record is free. The Liberator will fight in the ranks of those who stand for law and order and equal opportunity for all.

If this is incendiarism, the Tillman gang can make the best of it.

A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.

Florence, Ala., April 7.

Simon Simpson, a colored man, was killed as a result of yesterday's tragedy at Tuscumbia. Simpson went into

a butcher shop and began cursing all men who had participated in the killing, when he was ordered out by a white man named Walker. Simpson refused to go and advanced on Walker, whom he struck over the head with a board, whereupon Walker seized a butcher knife and hamstringed Simpson in each leg, and cut off the thumb of his right hand. Simpson bled to death. Walker surrendered to the authorities.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

In the popular voting contest held at the Azusa street church, Rev. Edwards was winner in the ministerial contest, receiving 945 votes. Rev. Donohoo, who gave him a close shave, received 937. Dr. Taylor, the most popular physician, and Miss Mattie Scott, the popular young lady. Rev. Nelson says he got more votes than any minister who was not running. If he had announced himself as a candidate he would have put a different face on the result. The contest was a profitable one for the church and made bushels of fun for the voters.

NEW WEEKLY PAPER.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Green, who will in a short time commence the publication of a weekly paper devoted to the advancement of the Afro-Americans. There is room here for a clean, up-to-date weekly of the kind in contemplation. Mr. Green is an old newspaper man and although he came here from Nashville, Tenn., he is a Mississippian, where he was connected with "The Sentinel." To run a negro newspaper in Mississippi requires pluck of a high order. Mr. Green is a practical printer and has a plant of his own. He has The Liberator's best wishes.

One of the state officers of the Afro-American League who resides in this city is trying to organize a secret political club to look after the negro's interest during the coming campaign. This, of course, is naturally to be expected, as none of the old gang will risk his business chances during the campaign by admitting that he is a member of the League. Such an admission puts the fellow under the ban of suspicion.

Shall Color be the Test of Womanhood?

Shall Woman's Rights be Used to Crush Women?

The battle that is raging over the color question between the white women of the different clubs composing the federation has not only side-tracked all other questions, but in some instances has almost reached the pugilistic stage.

To the colored women and other disinterested spectators, the scrap is amusing, if not ridiculous. It is a case of building the steeple and letting the church go. The idea of an organization having for its object the elevation of womanhood attempting to make virtue, fitness and personal worth subordinate to the color of the skin is preposterous.

But as absurd and un-Christian and un-American as the attempt is, it is just what the opponents of the admission of colored delegates to the federation are trying to do. That such a question should be entertained for a moment by a body of intelligent Christian women, is strange. Isn't virtuous womanhood, especially when enhanced by Christianity, broad enough to leave the highway to a nobler and purer womanly life open to all, regardless of color? Shall the Christian sentiment of this country surrender to jealousy and race prejudice? If the elevation of woman and the home is the object of women's clubs, why is all this discussion about color? In spite of the studied evasion, these are the main questions involved in the present controversy and a frank discussion of them might give rise to some helpful reflections and put the Christian white women of America in better light before the world.

DO THE COLORED WOMEN desire admission into the federation of women's clubs? is a favorite question of the advocate of the color line. It is not whether the colored women desire admission, but whether the color of the skin shall be the test for admission into an organization which has for its

object the general advancement of society by elevating womanhood. To make the color of the skin the test is to lower the standard of American womanhood. To this the colored women are opposed. It makes womanhood too cheap. Under such a test only old thing whose color, not virtue comes up to the low standard would be a woman in the full sense of that significant term. Aside from this the colored women don't care a snap. If virtue, intelligence and personal fitness is made the test the federation will have something to offer the young women of America and have some reason for existence.

SOCIAL EQUALITY: Some of the reasons given by opponents of the admission of colored delegates have been so flimsy that they would not be considered serious in a "Lime Kiln Club." Some consisted in wanton attacks upon the good name of the whole negro race, because, like the white race, some of them are bad. Some good Christian women so far forgot themselves as to justify and encourage mob violence, burning at the stake on suspicion, murder, robbery, nullification and many other unlawful things that did not reflect credit upon themselves or the clubs upon whom they must have imposed.

BUT THE FEAR OF SOCIAL EQUALITY, mixing of races, etc., is the straw that is breaking the camel's back among nervous northern white women. But the southern women know that the races have already mixed and that social equality has existed between the white men and negro women so long that it is difficult to distinguish a white person from a negro in the South, especially in the larger cities and towns. If a man and woman who are raising a family of children as father and mother are not enjoying social equality we would like to see a picture of social equality. If these good women really want to prevent the mixing of the races they are two hundred years too late. It is like one advocating stringent laws against chicken thieves after he has stolen all of his neighbor's chickens.

CAN'T TELL A NEGRO FROM A WHITE MAN: The life of a railway conductor on Southern railroads in Southern states requiring separate cars for the races is one of trials and tribulations. In these states it is the duty

of the conductor to keep the races separate during the day at least. Now, to raise the question whether a dark skinned white man is a negro or not is to become the victim of a justifiable homicide. To put a blonde or brunette off the train because he or she refuses to leave the car set apart for negroes and the blonde or brunette thus ejected proves to be a negro and brings a damage suit against the railroad, the conductor is "up against" an unpleasant condition.

TOO TRANSPARENT: Some of the reasons given by intelligent advocates of drawing the color line are so transparent as to raise the question of their seriousness. For instance, "I would be in favor of admitting the colored delegates if I was sure that it would not bring about social equality and mix the races." "It is but a step from the club to the drawing room," etc. The above is a sample of the mechanical arguments adduced. In the light of surrounding circumstances they are transparent to say the least. In this state the white and colored people worship in the same church, bow around the same sacramental altar, partaking of wine from the same cup, are baptized in the same pool, their children attend the same school, play together on the same school grounds, sit together in the same theater, ride and sleep in the same sleeping cars, bathe together in the same ocean, and die to sleep in the same cemetery. Yet with a black population of fifteen to twenty thousand and all this mixing there is less social equality and unholy mixing of the races in this state than there is in a single Mississippi town of 5000 inhabitants with its separate schools, churches and graveyards. Now, if the admission of colored delegates to the federation will bring about social equality, why has not the co-education of the races brought it about in this state? If the admission of a half dozen colored women to the white clubs of this city will bring about social equality, why has not the admission of hundreds of them to the white churches in this city brought it about? The attempt to lower the standard of American womanhood is all that concerns us in this controversy. Men never rise higher than their ideals. They should therefore be lofty. The color line will be drawn in the federation and by it the negro will lose nothing more than what he loses in common with other American citizens.

Would Not Be Lynched.

Will Reynolds Cleans Up an Alabama Mob.

ANOTHER COLORED HERO ADDED TO THE GROWING LIST.

Seven dead would-be lynchers, 21 others with their bodies ripped and torn by Winchester bullets, the blackened ruins of three or more cabins and the carcasses of several dead horses, is Tusculumbia's (Ala.) eloquent tribute to the memory of Mr. William Reynolds, the colored hero, who lynched a mob there on the 6th. Slowly but surely the negro is adopting a plan for the suppression of the mob that has never been known to fail—the cold steel cure. One negro with a Winchester and a determination to sell his life as dear as possible, can prevent a mob of any number from lynching him. No negro has failed who tried it. Mobs are always made up of cowardly cut-throats, who will fly at the first show of danger.

THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE.

The colored settlement near Tusculumbia has been the scene of many outrages committed upon the negroes who own all of the land in the settlement, by lawless poor whites, who upon one pretext or another, have made periodical visits to the settlement, horse-whipping the negroes and otherwise maltreating them, "keeping the 'niggers' in their place," as they term it. The negro who refuses to be whipped commits a capital crime, and is generally arrested by the officers of the law and turned over to the mob, which hangs, burns or tortures him to death in whatever manner their savage instincts may suggest. Such crimes when committed upon negroes being no violation of the law of the country, since the negro is no longer property. Reynolds refused to be whipped, so the mob invoked the aid of the law to get him into their possession. In attempting to arrest Reynolds the sheriff was trying to turn him unarmed over to the mob. This Reynolds knew, and he treated him as he did the mob, of which the sheriff was a part. Reynolds taught them a wholesome lesson, one that will be long remembered, one that is going to be imitated by other negroes in that mob-ridden section. The negro is getting over his fear of death and hell and is beginning to carry death, hell and damnation into the ranks of his persecutors. The American people have surrendered the ten million negroes of this country to the mob and if the negro allows his throat to be cut with out making an effort to defend himself, the country will continue to silently approve. But if the negro will turn upon his assailants and cut some of their throats while his is being cut, public sentiment will change front and a demand for the enforcement of the law will be made. Once make it cer-

tain that some member or members of every mob will return home in a black box and the mob business will soon sleep in the grave with the lost cause. Charles, Lott and Edwards of Louisiana, Littlefield of Mississippi, Trice of Florida, Reynolds of Alabama, and others whose names we cannot recall, have set examples that if followed, and they will be, will put an end to the mob outrages that have made American civilization a stench in the nostrils of the world. In sections where to defend yourself against unlawful attack of lawless whites is a capital offense, as it is in Alabama and other Southern States, it is the duty of every negro to own a good Winchester rifle and when waited upon by a mob, whether it comes in the capacity of officers or not, to make some member of it bite the dust before he gives up the ghost. James Carter, who shot a white man at New Glasgow, Va., was arrested, put in jail till the mob got ready, then was taken out and hanged like a dog. If he treated the officers who arrested him as Reynolds did he would have died like a man and took some of the members of the mob with him to the bar of eternal justice. The days of the mob are numbered. "God helps them that help themselves."

REYNOLD'S VICTIMS.

Sheriff Charles Gassaway (white) was shot through the arm and abdomen. He is dead. Hugh Jones (white) shot through the head—dead. Bob Wallace (white) instantly killed. Will Gassaway (white) shot through the abdomen—dead; P. A. Prout (white), shot through the stomach—dead; Jesse Davis (white), shot through the jaw—dead; ——— Payne (white), shot through the chest—dying; Robert Patterson (white), wounded in the leg; Jim Finney (white), wounded in the right shoulder.

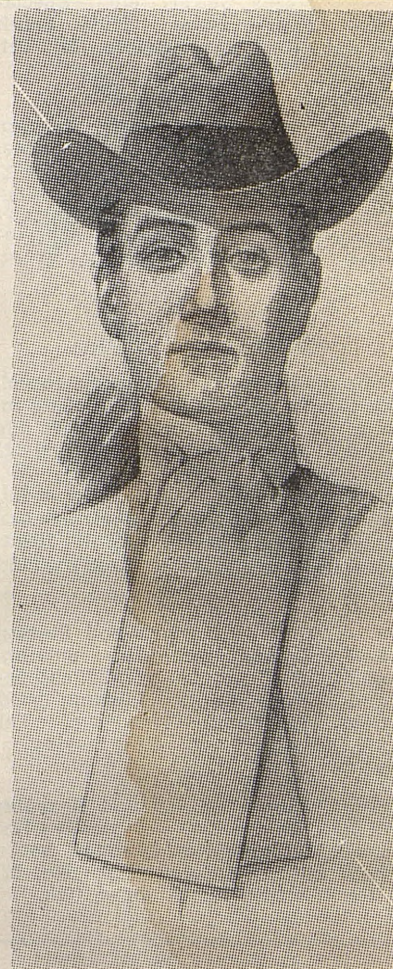
Don't forget that all of this execution was done by one lone negro, armed with a repeating rifle. No wonder the government has been using these kind of people in Cuba and the Philippines. If one of these kind of men can put nine white men out of action, hold a company of militia—the Wheeler Rifles, armed with one thousand rounds of ammunition—at bay until his own body was riddled with bullets and three buildings had been destroyed by fire in an effort to burn him out, what could he have done with the Spaniards, four of whom were required to whip one American white man?

While we regret the loss of life, still we admire the intrepid bravery of this man, who will take his place among the heroes of the century. After he killed one man he knew what to expect. It was either ignominious death by hanging or the stake.

That he had nerve admits of no question. He had none of that squeamish fear that permeates the

average colored citizen of the Southland today. He had no thought of the hereafter. He was in the living present. He believed no doubt that God would welcome a brave man rather than commend a coward. Nine men went down under his unerring aim. Seven white men joined him in the march to the other world.

Mobs will be more careful in Alabama hereafter. A few more of such colored men, and lynchings will go,



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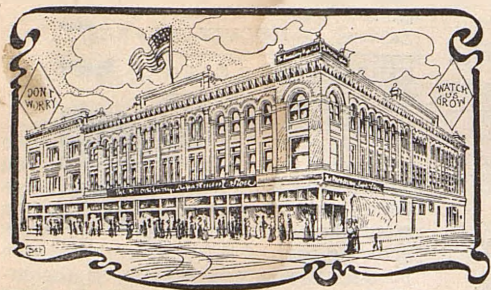
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